

Abstract of the Disclosure

A hierarchical software profiling mechanism that gathers hierarchical path
profile information has been described. Software to be profiled is instrumented with
instructions that save an outer path sum when an inner region is entered, and restore
5 the outer path sum when the inner region is exited. When the inner region is being
executed, an inner path sum is generated and a profile indicator representing the
inner path traversed is updated prior to the outer path sum being restored. The
software to be profiled is instrumented using information from augmented control
flow graphs that represent the software.

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